
January 16, 2003

WEST VIRGINIA BULLETIN NO. WV230-3-4

**SUBJECT: EOP- National Holiday for the birthday celebration of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**Purpose: To supply employees with a biography of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Expiration Date. This bulletin expires after contents are noted.

The third Monday in January is designated a national holiday for the birthday celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Below is a brief biography of the man for whom this day has been set aside.

Martin Luther King, Jr., American clergyman and civil rights leader, was born in 1929 in Atlanta, GA. His education consisted of a B.A. degree from Morehouse College in 1948, a B.D. from Crozer Theological Seminar in 1951, and a Ph.D. from Boston University in 1955.

King became minister of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama in 1954. In 1955-56, he led the Montgomery bus boycott and gained prominence as a civil rights leader when Montgomery buses began to operate on a desegregated basis.

King organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), which gave him a base to pursue further civil rights activities, first in the South and later nationwide. His philosophy of nonviolent resistance led to his arrest on numerous occasions in the 1950's and 60's. The protest he led in Birmingham, Alabama (1963) put King at the center of worldwide attention. In August of 1963, he spearheaded the March on Washington, which brought more than 200,000 people together. In 1964 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968.

(more)

As we look back to what is now referred to as the “The Turbulent Sixties,” it is hard to imagine getting through those times without him. Even those who despised Dr. King knew that his death would usher in a new breed of civil rights activists, who would not practice the doctrines of nonviolence taught by King.

**LILLIAN V. WOODS
State Conservationist**

**cc: Truman Wolfe, Ex. Director, WVCA, Charleston, WV
Joe Gumm, President, WVACD, Elkins, WV
Jim McClelland, WV RC&D Assoc., Huntington, WV**

DIST: E